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# Podiatry Services

## Adjudication Guideline

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### Abstract

#### For Members

Podiatrists are clinicians specialized in the treatment of disorders of the foot, ankle and leg. Common services rendered by Podiatrists include diabetic foot care, treatment of recurring ingrown toenails, and fitting of orthopedic shoes.

Coverage of podiatry services will be based on medical necessity criteria for your particular condition(s) and your policy.

Services determined to be cosmetic in nature will not be covered.

#### For Medical Professionals

In the UAE, Podiatrists are classified as "clinical support" and "allied health care" by the Department of Health. Billing restrictions arise from this classification by the local regulator.

For all policies, coverage of podiatry services will be subject to medical necessity, as well as compliance with Daman's eligibility criteria specified within this adjudication guideline.

**Approved by:**  
Daman

**Responsible:**  
Medical Standards & Research

**Related Adjudication Guidelines:**  
- Orthopedic Shoes

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## Scope

This adjudication guideline specifies Daman's coverage of medically necessary outpatient podiatry services (CPTs), which are defined as services:

1. For the anatomical region of foot-ankle-below knee, and
  - 2a. Ordered and/or performed by UAE-licensed Podiatrists or
  - 2b. Performed by UAE-licensed Podiatrists as ordered by a UAE-licensed physician.

Service restrictions arise from the local regulator's classification of Podiatrists as "clinical support" or "allied health care," not as physicians.

The following are outside the scope of this guideline:

1. The same services (CPTs) performed by other clinician specialties (ex. General surgeon, Dermatologist, etc.)
2. HCPCS (For guidance on "Orthopedic Shoes", please refer to guideline 2018—BR-030.)

## Adjudication Policy

### Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

1. Podiatry services are covered for all plans if medically necessary, not experimental/ investigational, and within the anatomic region of foot-ankle-below knee.
2. Anatomic location of the condition needing Podiatric services should be coded to the highest level of specificity.
3. Authorization is not required for Podiatry services (CPTs). However, HCPCS, such as Orthopedic Shoes are subject to pre-approval.
4. The following services may be billed by Podiatrists if referred by a physician:
  - Casting (for fracture), splinting, strapping
  - Diabetic foot care/ prevention
  - Management with prosthetics/ orthotics
5. The following services may be billed by Podiatrists as ordering and performing clinician:
  - Routine Foot Care (please see details in #6 below)
  - Surgical Foot Care (please see details in #7 below)
  - Diabetic foot care/ prevention
  - Management with prosthetics/ orthotics
6. "Routine Foot Care" (ex. *Paring or cutting of benign hyperkeratotic lesion*) is expected to be done by the patient or caregivers. If there is a documented severe circulatory dysfunction or areas of diminished sensation in the legs/feet related to a systemic condition, then services may be covered. Patients with additional conditions must be under the active care of a physician (within six months) who documents the condition in the patient's medical record.
7. For "Surgical Care CPTs" (ex. *Wedge excision of skin of nail fold*), the following information must be clearly documented in the patient's medical record and shared with Daman upon request for review:
  - a. Complete detailed description of the pre-operative findings, including nail margin involved.
  - b. Method of obtaining anesthesia (or reason for not using it, whenever applicable).
  - c. Complete detailed description of procedure, including specification of which digit(s) were involved.
  - d. Postoperative observation and treatment of surgical site (ex. Amount of bleeding, application of sterile dressing).
  - e. Postoperative instructions and follow-up care given to the patient.
8. Both "Ordering Clinician" and "Performing Clinician" must be included in the invoice as per Daman circular PRD\_MC\_CG\_18\_UAE-68.
  - a. "Ordering clinician" may be a physician or podiatrist, depending on the service.
  - b. "Performing clinician" should be a podiatrist.

Daman will be analysing patterns of overutilization and necessary measures will be taken.

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## Requirements for Coverage

ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.

Failure to document systemic condition(s) justifying "Routine Foot Care" services will result in rejection of the claim.

## Non-Coverage

Daman does not consider "Routine Foot Care" services (such as routine cutting of nails or paring of corns/callusities) in the absence of documented systemic disease being actively managed by a physician as medically necessary.

The following services are not covered if billed by Podiatrists:

- Amputations, surgeries for fractures, excision of malignancies, etc.
- Laboratory and radiologic investigations (including lower extremity vascular studies).
- Ordering (or performing) physical therapy.
- Prescribing medications from DOH and DHA Drug List.

Computerized dynamic posturography and Comprehensive computer-based motion analysis by video-taping and 3D kinematics; with dynamic plantar pressure measurements during walking are not covered as they are still considered investigational.

Services performed by Podiatrists at the following locations will not be covered:

- Hand
- Knee and above-knee
- Unspecified locations

## Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply DOH/ DHA/ MOH payment rules and regulations, as well as relevant coding manuals for ICD and CPT.

## Denial codes

Code description
Activity is inconsistent with clinician specialty/ Missing clinician ID.
Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice, without additional supporting diagnoses.
Payment is included in the allowance for another service.
Service/ supply may be appropriate, but too frequent.
Service(s) is (are) not covered.

## Appendices

### A. References

- HAAD Claims & Adjudication Rules V2012
- American Podiatric Medical Association
- The College of Podiatry
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- <https://www.aapc.com>
- [https://coder.aapc.com/cpt\\_assistant](https://coder.aapc.com/cpt_assistant)
- <https://emedicine.medscape.com>
- <https://www.uptodate.com>

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## B. Revision History

Date	Change(s)
30/05/2019	Release of V 1.0

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